

Questions

1. What did Rahab do to show loyalty to God and His people, and why was this considered an act of faith?
2. If your loyalty to God were measured only by your actions this past week, what would it reveal about the condition of your faith?
3. What truths about God did Rahab confess, and how does her confession contrast with the rest of Jericho?
4. How can you more intentionally share your testimony of what God has done for you in Christ this week?
5. What areas of your life show you're still trying to earn God's favor instead of trusting the sufficiency of Jesus' finished work?
6. How can you contribute to GBC becoming a more welcoming place for "outsiders" who may feel beyond the reach of mercy?
7. Do you see yourself—and others—as beyond hope or beyond redemption? How does Rahab's story reshape your view of God's mercy?

*Need prayer?
Someone will be up front by the piano
to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.*

gbclorton.com/sermons

Joshua

The Story of
The Promise-Keeping God

God Welcomes the Outsider

Joshua 2:1-24

Stuart McCray, Associate Pastor

August 17, 2025

In Joshua 2:1–24, we see four expressions of covenant mercy in Rahab's story, showing how God brings outsiders into His people to display His wisdom through the church.

1. LOYALTY TO GOD (vv.1-7)

Echo of Exodus – The Spies

Back in Numbers, Moses sent twelve spies, but only two—Joshua and Caleb—brought back a faithful report. (Num. 13:1-3) But now, as if learning from that, Joshua only sends two.

In verse 12, Rahab calls what she did for the spies an act of "kindness". In Hebrew this word is *hesed*. It carries the idea of loyalty or faithful love. By protecting the Israelite spies, she showed loyalty to Israel's God and declared that His people were now her people.

Her protection of the spies is her faith in action.

2. CONFESSION OF FAITH (vv.8-13)

Rahab's confession is at the end of verse 11, "...the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below."

Note two components with her confession:

1. She calls God, _____. All caps is, Yahweh; God's personal covenant name.
2. She confesses Yahweh's complete _____, "in heaven above and on earth below."

Everyone in Jericho knew what Rahab knew, but only she believed it to then act in loyalty to Yahweh. There's a difference between knowing the truth and trusting it.

3. SALVATION THROUGH PROMISE (vv.14-21)

The spies' oath in verse 14 is the "sure sign" Rahab asked for.

Echo of Exodus – Saving Israelites

In Egypt, it's Hebrew midwives who defied Pharaoh to save Israelite boys (Exodus 1:15–17). But now, it's a Gentile prostitute who defies her king to save Israelite men.

The scarlet cord is the visible sign of their oath.

Echo of Exodus – The Scarlet Cord of Protection

In Egypt, Jewish families who painted the lamb's blood on the doorframes were "passed over" when the destroyer came through (Exod. 12:21–23). But now, it's a Gentile family with a scarlet cord in the window who will be passed over when the LORD comes through. This is a "Gentile Passover."

This is salvation through promise. She believes the word given to her, ties the cord immediately, and waits for the promise to be fulfilled. Just like Israel on that first Passover—painting the blood on their doorframes and then waiting in faith.

4. TESTIMONY OF MERCY (vv.22-24)

What the spies report to Joshua in 2:24 is almost word-for-word what Rahab said in verse 9. This is the testimony of mercy; the spies affirm Rahab's covenant loyalty.

Rahab eventually marries Salmon from the tribe of Judah and becomes the great-great-far-off grandmother of Jesus (Matt. 1:5).